

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Gosselink et al. (6,121,226). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Gosselink, U.S. Patent 6,121,226 was discussed at page 1 of applicants' specification. Applicants agree with the Examiner that Gosselink discloses polyamines and some other detergent ingredients. Polyanionic ammonium surfactants, however, are not polyamines but are products of a reaction of polyamine with a conjugate acid of anionic surfactant. See the process of making at page 7 of applicants' specification. Applicants discovered that polyanionic ammonium surfactants (PAAS) included in applicant's compositions exhibit different characteristics and perform substantially better at soil removal than physical mixtures of anionic surfactants/fatty acids and polyamines. Furthermore, in the inventive compositions polyanionic ammonium surfactants can co-exist with a strong inorganic base to offer higher buffering capacity and high wash pH for improved performance. See the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 of applicant's specification.

See also Example 1 as compared to Example 1A at page 25 of the specification which demonstrates one of the differences between PAAS surfactant included in the present invention and TEPA (polyamine) and Na LAS mixtures of the Gosselink disclosure. See also Example 3, at page 28 of the application.

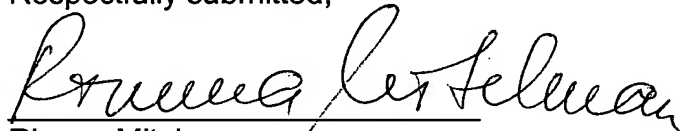
To summarize, the molecule included in the applicants' invention – PAAS – differs from polyamines or polyamine/NaLAS physical mixtures of Gosselink. Gosselink does not teach or suggest either making or using the PAAS molecule as taught by the present application. As shown by applicants' examples, PAAS molecule is not formed spontaneously from the mixtures of polyamine and NaLAS. Rather, polyamine has to be reacted with a conjugate acid of anionic surfactant to form PAAS included in the present invention.

In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully requested that the rejection over Gosselink be reconsidered and withdrawn and the application be allowed to issue.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's acknowledgement of documents submitted concurrently herewith in a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rimma Mitelman", written over a horizontal line.

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